

Pat Pitney
Interim President

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Dear UAA Community –

It is my pleasure to share with you the selection of former Governor Sean Parnell as the next chancellor of the University of Alaska Anchorage. He will begin his tenure at UAA on June 12. The selection was a rigorous one involving many people both within the UAA community and across the region, and I thank you for taking the time to join the many forums and for providing thoughtful feedback via the online feedback form. Your input was critical and influenced my decision.

After many hours of deliberation, consulting with the regents and reviewing all of your input, I selected Sean Parnell for several key reasons: his passion for our mission, his deep commitment to Alaska, and his desire for all Alaskans to have access to higher education. I was also very impressed by the support he received from the search committee, the UAA community, and especially from our students. I believe Sean to be uniquely positioned to lead UAA in providing the programs that support Anchorage and Alaska's workforce needs and economic growth, including innovative research to drive the state forward.

The eight candidates who sought this position are all exceptional, and each had special qualities. However, one of Sean's strengths is his ability to bring people together and work collaboratively. I know he and the UAA leadership team will work together to advance higher education in Southcentral Alaska. He offers a steady, calm and strategic approach to his leadership, which is important to UAA's future. Alaska's changing economy means the university must have leadership that is collaborative, strategic and transformative.

I also was influenced by his passion for higher education. As you heard during his forums with students and the community, as governor Sean sponsored and implemented the Alaska Performance Scholarship program and worked with the Alaska Legislature to establish a \$400 million endowment to fund the program as well as needs-based grants to create higher education and job training opportunities in Alaska. Since the start of the program -- FY12 to FY21 -- about 5,200 degrees, certificates and endorsements have been earned by Alaska Performance Scholarship recipients.

In the years ahead, I look forward to working with Sean on other legislative needs of the university.

Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank Interim Chancellor Bruce Schultz for his tremendous leadership these past several months. He has served you and UAA very well and will help guide the coming transition. Again, thank you for your participation in the selection process, and as we move forward, I hope you will join me in welcoming Chancellor Sean Parnell to the university system.

Sincerely,

Pat Pitney
UA Interim President